



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District



For Immediate Release

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Controlled burn planned for July 8 in MROSD's Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

Los Altos, California [July 3, 2009] – The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) are planning a controlled burn of 100 acres on July 8 in the [Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve](#), located along Skyline Boulevard near the intersection of Page Mill Road.

The burn is expected to be completed in one day, but may extend to two or be rescheduled depending on weather conditions and availability of fire personnel and equipment.

Please help us inform your audience in the Peninsula area that during the burn:

- **Smoke will be visible emanating from the burn site, and is not cause for alarm.**
- **The Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve will be closed to the public.**
- **There may be minor traffic delays on Skyline Boulevard.**

Fire personnel and equipment on-hand for the burn include four MROSD patrol units and a water tender, five CAL FIRE engines, a La Honda Fire Brigade engine and water tender, a King's Mountain Volunteer Fire Brigade engine, a Ben Lomond Fire Camp Crew and a firefighting helicopter. A control line has been established around the burn perimeter.

Controlled burns are one of several tools MROSD uses to manage grasslands in the Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve for the health of the environment and to reduce fire hazard. Four controlled burns have been successfully implemented at Russian Ridge since 1998, and have proven effective in controlling brush, reducing invasive plants such as Harding grass, and increasing the abundance and diversity of native California grasses and wildflowers, which are adapted to periodic fire. As a result, Russian Ridge has become a popular Bay Area destination to see spring wildflowers. Other techniques used in combination with controlled burns at Russian Ridge include grazing, seeding, mowing, bio-control insects and herbicides.

“The controlled burn improves fire safety by reducing dry vegetation and creating a firebreak along this prominent ridgeline in San Mateo County. The burn also provides valuable live fire training to local emergency response agencies, who work together when incidents occur on Open Space District lands and in surrounding communities,” said CAL FIRE Unit Chief John Ferreira.

Media representatives with interest in this controlled burn should contact the Public Information Officers at CAL FIRE or MROSD listed above.

Created by voters in 1972, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has successfully protected more than 57,000 acres of open space. The public enjoys the District's diverse and beautiful preserves 365 days a year. The District is a public agency whose mission is to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education. www.openspace.org

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